

# Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/003,938

Examiner

LAM S. NGUYEN

Applicant(s)

CONNORS ET AL.

Art Unit

2853

## -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed on 02/08/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 2-9, 17-20 and 40.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
  1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

### Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_.

### **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Walter Karnstein on 02/23/2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

#### **In the claims:**

**Claim 36:** Cancelled

**Claim 37:** Cancelled

**Claim 38:** Cancelled

**Claim 39:** Cancelled

### **REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: In light of the applicant's argument, the examiner admits that Feinn et al.'s ground line is not the claimed control/FET line. Feinn et al., thus, does not disclose a control/FET vias connecting a resistor to a control/FET bus.

**Referring to claim 2:** The primary reasons for the indication of the allowability of the claims is the inclusions therein, in combination as currently claimed, of the limitation that a controller bus that is connected to the at least one resistor at a controller via, wherein, at the controller via, the second metal layer comprises a separation barrier located adjacent the first

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metal layer and between the at least one resistor of the plural resistors and the controller bus is neither disclosed nor taught by the cited prior art of record, alone or in combination.

**Referring to claim 17:** The primary reasons for the indication of the allowability of the claims is the inclusions therein, in combination as currently claimed, of the limitation that creating conductive trace routes from the controller bus to controller vias associated with each resistor and creating conductive trace routes from the controller vias associated with each resistor to each resistor and creating a separation barrier to substantially prevent spreading of ink corrosion from the resistors to the controller bus, wherein the separation barrier comprises separation barrier portions within the controller vias is neither disclosed nor taught by the cited prior art of record, alone or in combination.

**Referring to claim 40:** The primary reasons for the indication of the allowability of the claims is the inclusions therein, in combination as currently claimed, of the limitation that a control portion electrically connected to the first portion of the first conductive metal layer through a control via, at which the second conductive metal layer comprises a corrosion-resistive layer portion, comprising a first separation barrier, between the control portion of the second conductive metal layer and the first portion of the first conductive metal layer is neither disclosed nor taught by the cited prior art of record, alone or in combination.

Claims 3-9 and 18-20 are allowed because they depend directly/indirectly on claim 2 or 17.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue

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fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LAM S. NGUYEN whose telephone number is (571)272-2151. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:00AM - 3:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, STEPHEN D. MEIER can be reached on (571)272-2149. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

LN  
02/26/2006

  
HAI PHAM  
PRIMARY EXAMINER